

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the March 1995 issue are: population; labour force, job vacancies, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals, price index of house building materials; retail turnover; and new motor vehicle registrations.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- The estimated resident population of the ACT at 30 September 1994 was 301,000. The ACT's population growth has slowed to 0.8 per cent over the year to September 1994 compared to 1.4 per cent in the previous year. Annual population growth for Australia was 1.1 per cent to September 1994 and 1.0 per cent to September 1993. Negative net migration has impacted on the ACT population growth over the last two quarters.
- The trend estimates of total employment in the ACT peaked at 154,600 in September/October 1994, but has since then been declining, and in March 1995 stood at 153,400. It has decreased by 0.2 per cent from the previous month. In contrast, the national employment level rose by 0.3 per cent. The trend unemployment rate for the ACT remained constant at 7.0 per cent, while the participation rate continued to decrease by a further 0.2 percentage points in March 1995.
- Long-term unemployment in the ACT declined from 2,636 in January 1995 to 2,459 in February 1995; representing an decrease of 6.7 per cent from the previous month and 39.4 per cent decrease from the same month in the previous year. The proportion of long-term unemployed in the ACT in February 1995 was 17.4 per cent (down 3.1% from January 1995) which compares well with the national proportion of 33.2 per cent (up 0.6%).
- There were 1,300 job vacancies recorded for the ACT in February 1995; a decrease of 7.1 per cent from November 1994 and 13.3 per cent from February 1994. The majority of job vacancies were reported in the public sector with 900 job vacancies at

February 1995 (decreased by 23.8% from the previous quarter). In the private sector, 500 job vacancies were reported in the same period (increased 71.7% from the previous quarter).

- The trend series for the value of monthly housing finance commitments for the ACT showed \$86.0 million in January 1995, down 1.0 per cent from December 1994, but was a drop of 19.8 per cent over the twelve month period. The national decline was 1.3 per cent for January 1995 and 17.2 per cent over the same twelve month period.
- The trend for the total number of dwelling unit approvals in the ACT fell by 0.4 per cent in February 1995. All States and Territories recorded falls in dwelling unit approvals, however, the ACT recorded the lowest fall. The original estimates for the value of approvals for new residential buildings and for residential alterations and additions continued to climb (5.2% and 60.5% respectively), while the value of non-residential buildings decreased by 43.5 per cent.
- Trend estimates of retail turnover in the ACT increased by 0.4 per cent in February 1995, above the national increase of 0.3 per cent. The two main contributors to this increase were the hospitality and services, and food retailing industries at 1.8 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively. In the twelve months to February 1995, the retail turnover for the ACT showed a 1.8 per cent increase.
- After a period of decline, the trend series for the number of registered new motor vehicles in the ACT has risen. The last six months has shown the highest level since August 1991, with 1,050 new motor vehicles registered in February 1995. This represented an increase of 1.8 per cent from the previous month and 1.4 per cent from the previous year. This also represented the second highest increase of all States and Territories, with Northern Territory being the highest at 3.8 per cent.

Dalma Jacobs

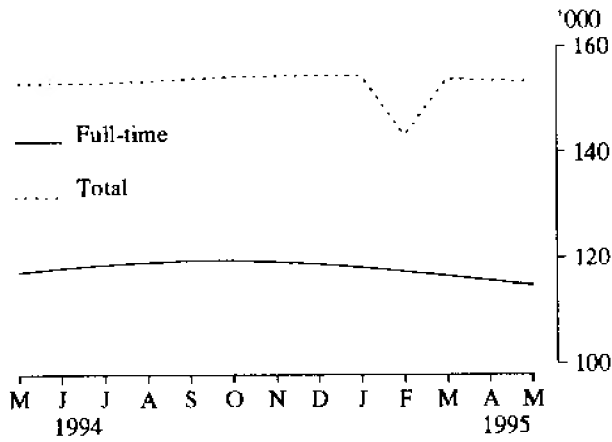
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

INQUIRIES

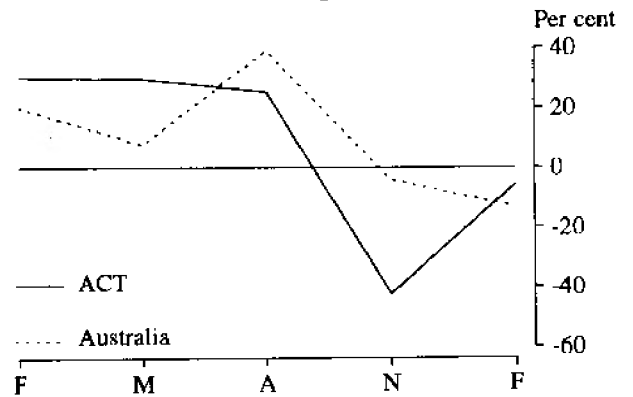
- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Nives Marelic on Canberra (06) 207 0315 or any ABS State office.
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

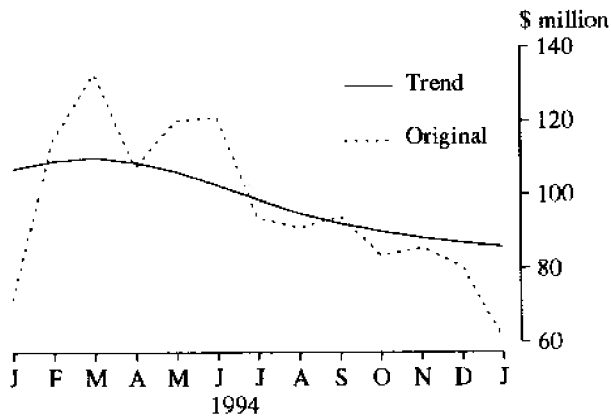
LABOUR FORCE - TREND



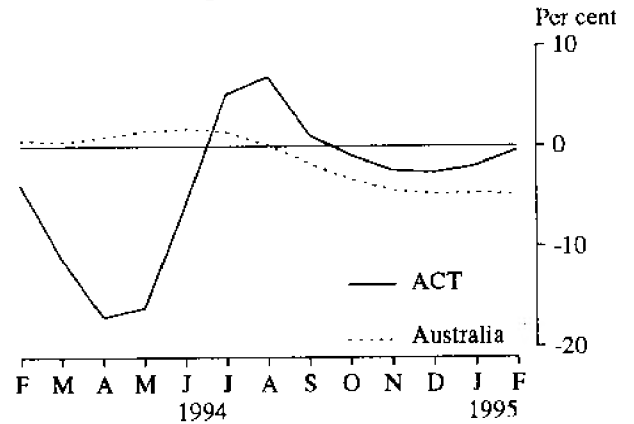
JOB VACANCIES Percentage change



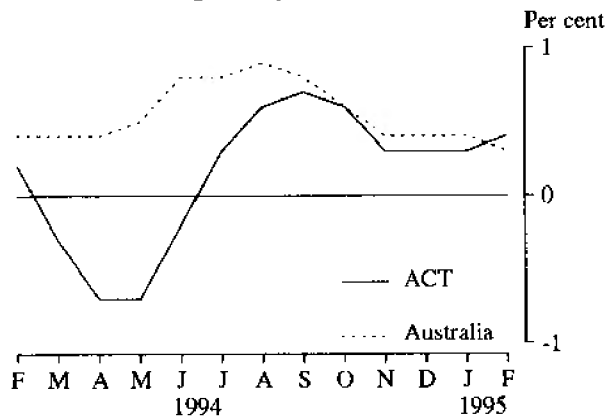
HOUSING FINANCE Value of commitments



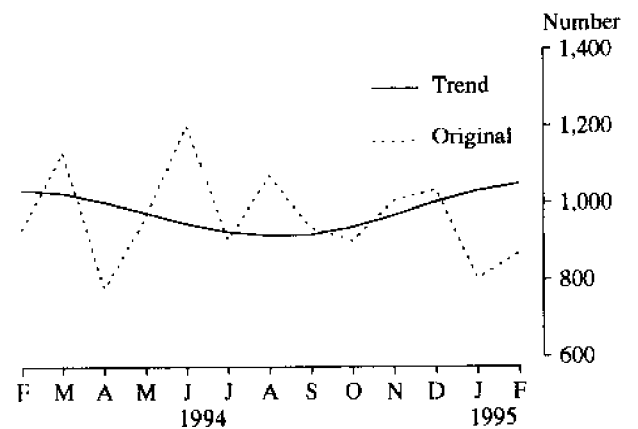
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED - TREND Percentage change from previous month



RETAIL TURNOVER - TREND Percentage change from preceding month



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, MARCH
QUARTER 1995/DECEMBER QUARTER 1995
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Short-term		
Mar. qtr 1994-June qtr 1994	1.6	1.9
June qtr 1994-Sept. qtr 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1994	3.8	2.3
Dec. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	- 1.3	- 0.5
Medium-term		
Mar. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	3.8	3.9
June qtr 1994-June qtr 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. qtr 1994-Sept. qtr 1995	2.3	4.1
Dec. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1995

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, September qtr 94	'000	301.5	0.2	0.8	17 896.7	0.3	1.1
Natural increase	no.	714	- 18.5	- 10.2	28 412	- 19.6	- 11.5
Net migration	no.	- 114	- 15.6	- 214.0	25 013	348.6	44.0
Total increase	no.	600	- 19.0	- 33.0	53 425	30.5	8.0
LABOUR FORCE, March 95p							
Original series							
Employed	'000	153.5	- 0.4	0.3	8 164.6	0.9	4.2
Unemployed	'000	13.7	- 2.8	17.1	815.7	- 8.0	- 14.1
Unemployment rate(a)	%	8.2	- 0.2	1.1	9.1	- 0.8	- 1.7
Participation rate(a)	%	72.9	- 0.4	0.5	63.8	- 0.1	- 2.5
Long-term unemployed (Feb. 95)	no.	2 459	- 6.7	- 39.4	294 582	5.8	- 19.4
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Feb. 95)(a)	%	17.4	- 3.1	- 7.8	33.2	0.6	- 3.1
Trend series							
Employed	'000	153.4	- 0.2	0.2	8 146.1	0.3	4.1
Unemployed	'000	11.6	—	- 1.7	784.5	- 0.6	- 12.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.0	—	- 0.1	8.8	- 0.1	- 1.5
Participation rate(a)	%	71.9	- 0.2	- 0.6	63.5	0.1	0.7
JOB VACANCIES, February 95	'000	1.3	- 7.1	- 13.3	57.2	- 13.3	24.9
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, December 94							
Working days lost	'000	—	—	- 100.0	49.0	- 53.9	156.5
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Dec. 94)	no.	8	- 11.1	- 89.5	86	6.2	- 20.4
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, January 95							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	5.7	- 24.0	- 33.7	428.9	- 24.7	- 16.0
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	15.7	- 18.7	91.5	150.7	- 17.4	- 5.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	32.7	- 28.0	- 31.9	1 927.3	- 25.0	- 19.8
Total housing commitments	\$m	60.6	- 24.7	- 15.6	2 506.9	- 24.5	- 18.4
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	82.1	- 11.1	- 18.6	3 189.2	- 17.8	- 20.4
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	86.0	- 1.0	- 19.8	3 398.8	- 1.3	- 17.2
BUILDING APPROVALS, February 95							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	24.6	2.5	2.1	12 227	7.8	- 13.9
Value of new residential	\$m	26.2	5.2	6.5	1 087.8	6.8	- 7.9
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	6.1	60.5	29.8	178.9	22.6	3.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	14.8	- 43.5	- 24.5	905.9	43.5	16.0
Value of total building	\$m	47.1	- 14.2	- 3.9	2 172.6	21.0	1.7
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	260	- 0.4	- 39.1	13 211	- 4.9	- 16.4
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 94							
New houses	no.	360	- 3.0	- 37.5	33 632	17.2	10.2
Value of houses commenced	\$m	42.4	4.7	- 33.9	3 170.9	20.6	16.8
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	50.7	- 68.3	- 22.0	2 322.3	2.9	20.8
Value of total commencements	\$m	158.5	- 42.7	- 21.5	7 171.2	12.9	18.1
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Sept. qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)		132.3	- 1.1	- 0.8	112.6	1.5	4.8
Price index of house building materials, Jan. 95 (b)		153.5	0.5	1.9	157.0	—	3.1

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, APRIL 1995 — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, December qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		113.6	1.2	2.0	110.9	0.5	1.3
Housing		102.8	3.1	3.6	97.5	2.7	4.2
Transportation		118.9	-0.6	1.2	116.8	-0.2	2.9
All groups		113.8	1.1	2.2	112.8	0.8	2.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, November qtr 94							
Original series							
Males	\$	699.20	-1.1	1.3	642.90	1.3	3.9
Females	\$	491.20	-1.9	2.7	425.00	0.9	4.0
Total persons	\$	590.90	-1.7	1.1	541.50	0.8	3.8
Trend series							
Males	\$	700.70	-1.0	1.3	642.50	1.1	3.7
Females	\$	499.60	0.1	4.0	427.30	0.6	4.0
Total persons	\$	595.60	-0.8	1.6	543.40	0.9	4.0
RETAIL TURNOVER, February 95							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	67.6	1.0	12.3	3 439.9	-5.0	8.9
Department stores	\$m	17.2	-7.5	-1.1	682.5	-9.3	2.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	26.3	13.9	9.1	1 494.7	-11.5	10.7
All other retailing	\$m	46.7	-4.1	-4.9	2 669.1	-8.0	4.1
Total	\$m	157.8	0.3	4.6	8 286.2	-7.5	7.1
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	71.4	1.3	9.3	3 700.8	0.6	8.8
Department stores	\$m	23.3	—	-1.7	928.1	-0.2	2.2
Hospitality and services	\$m	28.3	1.8	-3.7	1 652.2	0.4	10.4
All other retailing	\$m	55.2	-1.3	-2.6	3 096.2	—	4.2
Total	\$m	178.2	0.4	1.8	9 377.3	0.3	6.8
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, September qtr 94							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	213.9	7.4	7.1	8 924.8	8.9	6.7
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.8	9.3	13.3	759.9	12.7	13.0
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	17.1	8.9	13.2	647.6	11.5	10.9
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	211.7	2.3	6.7	8 630.7	0.9	6.9
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.0	9.8	13.1	738.5	3.4	13.1
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	17.2	8.9	12.4	622.8	1.8	11.1
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	210.2	0.1	7.8	8 610.4	0.2	6.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.6	3.9	11.4	732.7	1.4	11.6
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.7	1.8	9.2	622.7	2.0	10.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, February 95							
Motor vehicles	no.	871	8.5	-6.4	49 202	14.6	7.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	967	-12.2	-6.6	53 249	-2.8	7.0
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 050	1.8	1.4	54 021	0.6	11.4
INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, June qtr 94							
Originating	'000 tonnes	102.9	124.7	133.9	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
Receiving	'000 tonnes	122.4	-3.4	-7.6	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, September qtr 94							
Original series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 122	1.3	5.8	102 726	2.9	6.6
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 315	-2.4	-0.1	111 038	2.5	7.8
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 035	-1.8	6.6	101 834	1.3	8.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 343	3.2	2.8	69 191	4.1	7.2
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	339	5.9	31.9	18 709	2.3	18.8
Trend series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 034	-0.1	1.5	102 948	1.4	5.7
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 363	1.1	5.2	112 075	2.2	7.7
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 997	-0.3	2.8	101 426	1.6	7.1
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 323	0.1	1.7	68 718	1.5	6.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	326	7.9	16.8	18 758	5.2	19.4

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Sept. qtr 94	6 068.9	4 482.1	3 216.5	1 471.0	1 710.0	472.6	171.4	301.5	17 896.7
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Mar. 95p	2 717.0	2 029.9	1 492.8	646.8	823.0	197.2	84.2	153.4	8 146.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Mar. 95p	8.5	9.3	8.7	9.9	7.5	11.1	7.0	7.0	8.8
STATE ACCOUNTS											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	34 688	26 511	17 005	7 389	11 795	2 192	1 080	2 034	102 948
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	38 221	29 038	18 262	8 312	12 167	2 359	1 154	2 363	112 075
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Feb. 95	3 993	2 413	2 908	679	1 586	259	143	246	12 227
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Feb. 95	4 243	2 440	3 264	821	1 829	245	111	260	13 211
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Feb. 95	363.7	237.6	153.3	26.8	68.3	10.2	31.2	14.8	905.9
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Feb. 95	798.8	500.1	445.5	90.6	209.6	32.7	48.0	47.1	2 172.6
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	993.2	540.4	777.4	156.1	330.2	35.3	63.1	53.9	2 949.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Nov. qtr 94	652.80	625.90	587.70	600.60	631.20	599.90	646.70	714.00	629.00
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Feb. 95	3 269.0	2 178.0	1 738.5	719.8	956.8	229.0	108.0	178.2	9 377.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Sept. qtr 94	2 929.6	1 359.6	2 303.5	480.0	789.1	273.6	264.8	210.2	8 610.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Feb. 95	19 405	12 617	10 010	3 663	5 496	1 129	650	1 050	54 021
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
Food		Dec. qtr 94	111.4	108.8	111.0	114.3	111.4	113.3	112.8	113.6	110.9
Housing		Dec. qtr 94	99.1	95.0	104.0	95.6	91.8	97.6	107.7	102.8	97.5
Transportation		Dec. qtr 94	114.9	118.5	115.4	119.8	117.2	115.0	114.5	118.9	116.8
All Groups		Dec. qtr 94	111.8	113.1	113.7	116.0	111.0	114.2	113.7	113.8	112.8
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	104.0	106.0	107.0	101.0	105.0	115.0	94.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sept. qtr 94	163.0	154.0	145.0	125.0	139.0	160.0	170.0	165.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	257.0	111.0	147.0	180.0	105.0	1075.0	1287.0	1105.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	275.0	335.0	271.0	325.0	316.0	339.0	358.0	253.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	68.0	70.0	76.0	60.0	115.0	70.0	85.0	73.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Sept. qtr 94	374.0	503.0	407.0	512.0	469.0	499.0	556.0	439.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sept. qtr 94	297.0	254.0	237.0	311.0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	70.1	70.0	62.2	71.5	71.3	76.3	74.8	73.5	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	68.4	68.3	60.5	69.7	69.8	74.7	73.3	71.9	n.a.

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Sept. qtr 94	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	—	0.2	0.2	0.3
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Mar. 95p	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.3
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Mar. 95p	- 0.1	- 0.1	—	—	—	- 0.1	- 0.1	—	- 0.1
STATE ACCOUNTS										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.1	0.2	1.9	- 0.1	1.4
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.2	0.9	2.8	1.1	2.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Feb. 95	2.9	35.0	3.7	- 12.3	3.3	18.8	44.4	2.5	7.8
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Feb. 95	- 3.8	- 4.7	- 6.7	- 3.9	- 4.0	- 1.2	- 9.8	- 0.4	- 4.9
Value of non-residential building approved	Feb. 95	73.8	55.6	14.9	14.5	24.6	- 26.1	74.3	- 43.5	43.5
Value of all buildings approved	Feb. 95	22.3	42.3	12.0	- 3.0	14.8	- 3.5	65.5	- 14.2	21.0
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Sept. qtr 94	- 20.1	- 24.2	2.5	- 21.8	- 29.8	- 50.2	9.5	28.0	- 17.0
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Nov. qtr 94	1.4	1.0	0.4	- 0.1	1.7	0.9	1.0	- 0.2	1.0
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Feb. 95	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.3
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sept. qtr 94	1.2	0.2	- 1.3	- 1.3	- 0.3	1.7	- 0.3	0.1	0.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Feb. 95	0.4	0.5	0.6	2.0	0.2	- 0.6	3.8	1.8	0.6
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)										
Food	Dec. qtr 94	1.1	0.2	0.3	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	—	1.2	0.5
Housing	Dec. qtr 94	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.0	2.3	3.1	2.7
Transportation	Dec. qtr 94	- 0.3	0.1	- 0.3	0.2	- 0.6	1.0	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.2
All Groups	Dec. qtr 94	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.8
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	1.9	1.9	4.1	1.0	4.5	—	3.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	- 1.8	0.7	- 0.7	- 0.8	12.1	3.9	1.2	- 1.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sept. qtr 94	- 2.0	0.8	- 0.1	1.4	0.8	- 2.0	3.3	3.1	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sept. qtr 94	- 6.8	3.7	- 11.1	- 1.2	- 1.6	- 1.5	—	- 9.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Sept. qtr 94	- 8.1	—	4.1	- 4.8	16.2	- 9.1	4.9	15.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Sept. qtr 94	- 16.7	17.5	4.1	33.3	16.7	2.5	18.6	1.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sept. qtr 94	1.7	—	—	- 0.6	- 2.5	- 1.0	1.8	0.8	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	- 0.3	0.6	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Sept. qtr 94	1.0	- 1.3	- 0.5	0.1	2.2	0.4	0.7	1.4	n.a.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. - not available; p - preliminary data; n.p. - not available for publication.

